

B-2225

Auman and Werkmeister Furriers Store  
311 North Charles Street  
Private

1916

Summary

The facade of the Auman and Werkmeister Furriers Store is significant in local architectural history as a good example of the use of historical styles in early 20th century architecture. In this case, the Late Gothic Revival style popularized in the works of Ralph Adams Cram, Bertram Goodhue, and Cass Gilbert is used as an applied overlay on an older structure.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. B-2225

Magi No. 0422255711

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Auman and Werkmeister Furriers Store

and/or common Travel Guide Agency (preferred)

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 311 North Charles Street

☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore

☐ vicinity of

congressional district

3rd

state Maryland

county

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Whittington - Lansinger Funding Corp.

street &amp; number 307 Overlook Drive

telephone no.:

city, town Timonium

state and zip code Maryland 21093

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber SEB 166

street &amp; number Fayette and Calvert Streets folio 784

city, town Baltimore

state Maryland 21202

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Baltimore Neighborhood Survey

date 1976

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

city, town Baltimore

state Maryland 21201

## 7. Description

Survey No. B-2225

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Summary

The Auman and Werkmeister Furriers Store (Travel Guide Agency) is a three story brick commercial building with a Gothic Revival-inspired facade on the west elevation. The original structure may date from about 1816, while the facade was built between 1911 and 1915. The building is located on the east side of North Charles Street north of Saratoga Street in central Baltimore, Maryland.

### General Description

The facade is altered on the ground floor with plate glass display windows angled back from the wall plane toward a recessed off-center entrance. Flanking the facade are granite piers rising above the roofline. Between these piers and above the black glass or bakelite transom of the display windows is a heavily floriated stone ogee arch surmounted by a finial of leaf forms. The arch has a small frieze band flanked by lions' heads which has a black panel insert painted with the name "Travel Guide Agency". Behind this insert is the carved name of Auman and Werkmeister which was added in 1915 when the furriers moved to the building.

The second and third floors have five windows separated by stone mullions. The windows are double hung with 3/3 lights. Each has a rectangular transom with three sections. The spandrels between the 2nd and 3rd floors have panels of trefoil design. The transoms of the 3rd floor windows rise to four-centered arches embellished with tracery. A blind arcade of cusped tracery and a battlemented parapet complete the facade.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. B-2225

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1916 **Builder/Architect** Sparklin & Childs, arch.

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### Summary

The facade of the Auman and Werkmeister Furriers Store is significant in local architectural history as a good example of the use of historical styles in early 20th century architecture. In this case, the Late Gothic Revival style popularized in the works of Ralph Adams Cram, Bertram Goodhue, and Cass Gilbert is used as an applied overlay on an older structure.

### History and Support

The brick structure originally on the site was probably built about 1816, although this survey did not reveal how much of the building still exists. A wood facade was in place in 1911, according to the Sanborn map of that year.

From 1841 to 1860, the original building was the residence of Isaac Brooks and later his son John Brooks, an iron merchant whose principal foundry was in Ellicott City. By 1900, the building was evidently in commercial use. Lycett Stationers occupied the ground floor from 1901 to 1906. Baldwin and Pennington's architectural offices were located in the building immediately after the 1904 Baltimore fire, prior to moving to the Professional Building (B-2167) in 1906.

The influx of professional offices and retail businesses in the Charles Street area after the fire of 1904 had the effect of stimulating the reconstruction of facades along the main streets. The exact date and the architect of the Auman and Werkmeister facade were not revealed during this survey. However, Mr. Frederick Aumann recalls that the facade was in place when he and Rudolph Werkmeister purchased the building in 1916. The incised firm name was added under the ogee arch at that time. City directories show the firm was listed at 311 North Charles by 1915. The facade was probably built between the 1911 date of the Sanborn map and 1915. (Additional information, Dec. 1984: The Daily Record, 7-15-1916, notes Sparklin & Childs, architects, were preparing plans for a new facade for 311 No. Charles.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-2225

Baltimore City Directories  
Land Records of Baltimore City  
Sanborn's Insurance Maps of Baltimore City

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Baltimore East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Co-terminous with lot size 24'11½"x87'5"

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historical Preservation Analyst

organization Comm. for Hist. and Arch. Pres. date November, 1984

street & number 606 Tower Suites, 118 N. Howard St. telephone 396-4866

city or town Baltimore state Maryland 21202

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

BALTIMORE METROCENTER SURVEY

SURVEY NO.: B-2225

AREA: Cathedral Hill

MAGI NO.: 0422255711

Address: 311 North Charles Street  
Current Name: Travel Guide Agency

Block: 603      Lot: 10      Lot size: 24'11½"x87'5"  
Height: 3      Materials: Granite  
Condition: Excellent      Owner: Whittington-Lansinger Corp.  
Use: Commercial      Accessible: Yes, unrestricted  
Designation:      Liber/Folio: SEB 166/784



Historic Name: Auman and Werkmeister Furriers  
Date: 1916  
Architect/Builder: Sparklin & Childs, arch.  
Style (if appropriate): Late Gothic Revival

Description:

The three-story brick building has a granite facade in the Late Gothic Revival style with groups of 5 windows on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The ground floor store front has been altered with plate glass display windows angled back to an off-center entrance. An ogee arch above the display windows has floriated ornamentation culminating in a finial at the arch peak. The windows on each upper floor are 3/3 and are separated by stone mullions. Between the 2nd and 3rd floors are panels of trefoil design. The 3rd floor windows rise to four-centered arches with tracery. A blind arcade above also has tracery ornamentation and the roofline is battlemented.

Significance:

Area: Architecture

Level: Local

The facade of the Auman and Werkmeister Furriers Store is significant in local architectural history as a good example of the use of historical styles in early 20th century architecture. In this case, the Late Gothic Revival style popularized in the works of Ralph Adams Cram, Bertram Goodhue, and Cass Gilbert is used as an applied overlay on an older structure.

See Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form

Sources: City directories, Land Records, Sanborn's Maps.  
Surveyor and Date: Janet Davis, November 1984.

Baltimore Metrocenter Survey  
Cathedral Hill Area  
Auman and Werkmeister Furriers  
311 North Charles Street  
B-2225

TRAVEL  
AGENCY, INC.  
311

TRAVEL  
AGENCY,  
311



APR 1984  
KODAK  
THIS PHOTO  
M-20/FACT 800  
APR 1984  
KODAK  
APR 1984  
KODAK  
Auman & Werkmeister Furriers B-2225  
311 North Charles Street  
Cathedral Hill - Metrocenter Survey  
Baltimore (City), Maryland  
Photo: Janet Davis  
Date: August 1984  
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
West elevation

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BLK 603  
B-2225  
MAG/1042225811

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Travel Guide Agency

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

311 North Charles Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
☒ ACCESSIBLE  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☒ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☒ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office Room 601

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY ☒ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL &  
ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION  
Room 900

CITY, TOWN

26 South Calvert St.  
Baltimore, Md 21202

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

B-2225

**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This three story high, single bay wide granite facade row building is a 1920's revival of English pointed Gothic styling, replete with tracery, battlements, and elaborately carved stone ornament, reflecting the 1920's interest in original stylizations of Gothic naturalistic detail, bordering on the Art nouveau in exuberance.

The first floor of the building has been altered to accommodate a broken, angled plate glass and aluminum commercial front, holding a single, right of center entrance. The front is flanked on either side by ashlar granite piers which rise above the roofline in gabled points. A band of black glass separates the entrance front from the five part painted glass transom, which is set into a flattened segmental pointed arch which runs from pier to pier. An elaborate stone hood follows the lines of the arch, rising to a flattened ogee arch, ascending from the transom in the following order:

- 1). a thin curved band of black glass with painted letters identifying the name of the establishment, terminated on either end by carved stone lion's heads.
- 2). a flattened ogee arched band of stone molding which shelters a stone floral relief beneath the central point.
- 3). a series of large freestanding, deeply carved leaves which march snail-like up the arch towards the center from either side.
- 4). a stone relief panel of carved granite set into the wall, spanning the distance from pier to pier, which features an intricate decorative motif of clusters of grapes and leafy vines, topped by a belt course of granite cavetto molding, topped by a raked ledge.
- 5). a frothy, fountain-like finial spray of stone which bursts several feet from the point of the arch in a conglomeration of natural forms

Above the stone belt course at the second floor level, five flat double hung windows with 3/3 lights set in wooden sash are set side by side across the facade, separated by stone mullions. Each has a rectangular tripartite transom above. Atop each transom at the third floor level, stone panels are carved with cusped tracery in a circular motif. The five third floor windows are above these; each is hinged at the top with six fixed lights and are set in stone frames. Their tripartite transoms are set in four center, pointed arches which establish the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

B-2225

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See 300 St. Paul Place.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Bill Pencek, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL &  
ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION  
Room 900

DATE

1976

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN

26 South Calvert St.  
Baltimore, Md. 21202

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

B-2225

Travel Guide Agency  
311 North Charles Street

continuation sheet 1

7. Continued

rhythm for an overscaled lozenge molding which runs across the face of the building. The lozenge shapes are filled with leafy stone reliefs. A broad cavetto molding runs above these and is set with four paterae in relief. Between the projecting piers, a stone battlement carved with cusped tracery in trefoil and quatrefoil patterns runs above the roofline.

2014 14THRU 23 COND'D PER APP. 100.8  
2015 14-23; 24/21 COND'D PER APP. 100.8

TRACED BY HLW  
LETTERED BY HLW  
CHECKED BY

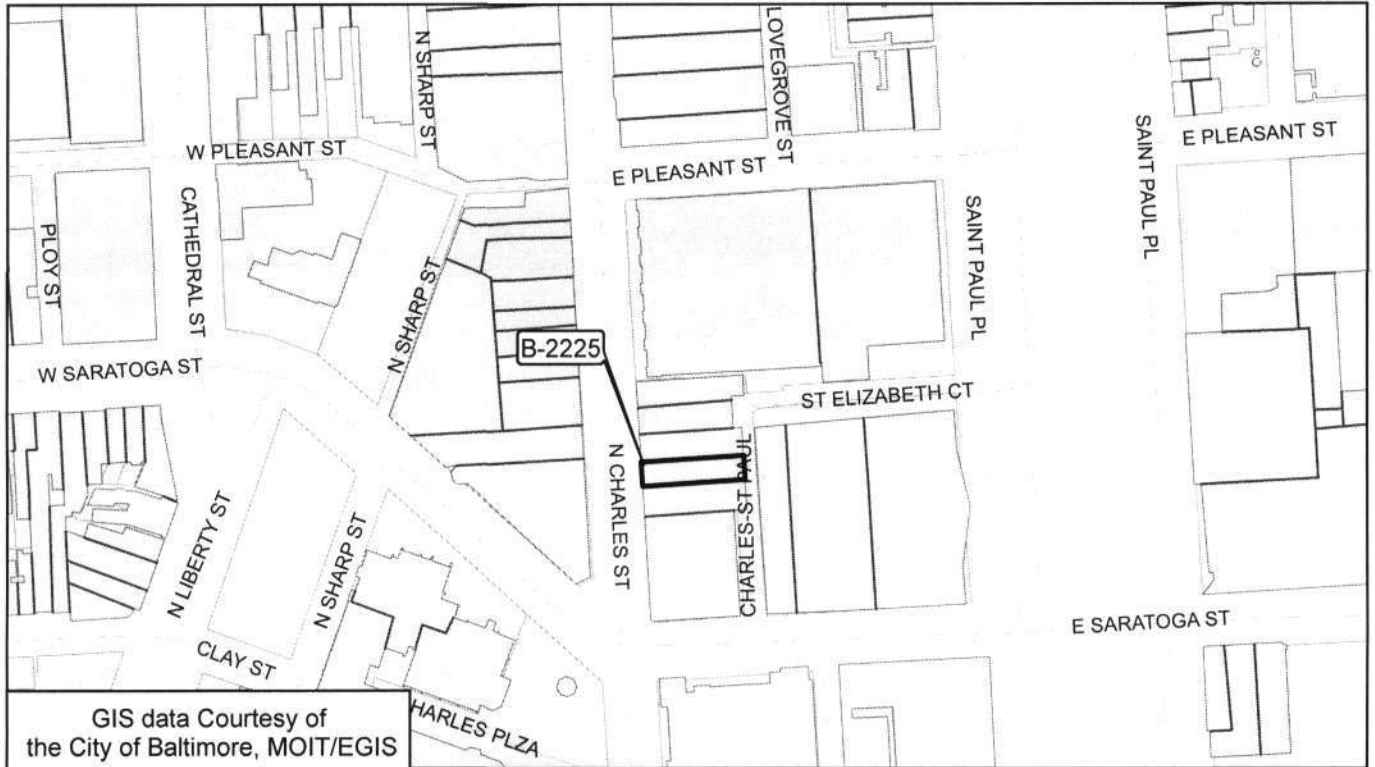
THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(9) OF THE CITY CHARTER. IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AERIAL SURVEY.

PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

SCALE 1:50' 0"      DATE 11/6/1966

B-2225

Auman & Werkmeister Furriers Store (Travel Guide Agency)  
311 N. Charles Street  
Block 0603, Lot 010  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





B-2225

BLK 603

309, 311 N. Charles